

Department of Health Care Policy and Financing Updates September 30, 2011

This publication updates you on major Department of Health Care Policy and Financing initiatives including policy changes and program updates. Please feel free to share it with your colleagues and contact the designated staff person if you would like any more details.

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Breaking News

Adults Without Dependent Children Program Update

Starting in March 2012, a newly eligible category of Coloradans can apply for public health insurance benefits. Coverage for <u>Adults without Dependent Children</u> (AwDC) was part of the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act and is funded by the <u>Hospital Provider Fee</u>. This month it was announced that enrolled clients will receive regular Medicaid benefits and that to meet budget requirements the program will be capped at 10,000 clients.

If you would like to learn more about the program or how to participate in stakeholder forums please or contact <u>Susan Mathieu</u>.

Increasing the Number of Insured Coloradans

PEAK Update

Since the launch of PEAK Phase II in late May 2011, 4,462 applications for medical assistance programs have been submitted through the online portal.

Containing Costs

Rx Review Program Recruits Participants

The <u>Rx Review Program</u> is a voluntary participatory medication review for Medicaid clients who have multiple prescription needs. Clients that have claims for five or more drugs totaling more

than \$2,000 per month or those having six or more narcotics claims each month for three consecutive months may be eligible to participate.

Pharmacists participating in the program will review all prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and nutritional supplements; identify drug-drug interactions, drug duplication or use of multiple providers, and ensure conformity with the <u>Preferred Drug List</u>. Patient participation is voluntary; client pharmacy benefits will not be affected in any way. If you would like more information, or you are a pharmacist interested in participating, please contact <u>Tammie Ruiz</u>.

Initiative Updates

Medicaid Infrastructure Grant

Legislative Update

CHP+ Rules

<u>Proposed changes</u> to the cost-sharing structure for clients in CHP+ will be presented at the October 14, 2011 Medical Services Board Meeting. The proposed changes were developed after extensive communication with stakeholders and a public review hearing. *If you would like more information, please contact Bill Heller*.

Healthy Living Initiatives



Oral Health Update

The current estimate for dental caries is based on data from the Basic Screening Survey. Results show that in Colorado, the percent of low-income children in the third grade who have dental caries is 57.2 percent. The Department's current efforts for the Initiative are focused on increasing the number of children who

receive preventive dental care and treatment services (including sealants). The Department's Strategic plan reflects a goal for decreasing the dental caries in children from 57 percent to 55 percent in FY 2011-2012.

If you would like more information, please contact Lisa Waugh.

Employment Opportunities

Applying for state jobs has just become easier! Applications are electronic, you will receive updates, and you do not need to answer any written questions until it is determined that you meet the minimum qualifications. Check out the new Web site and our job openings.

The Department offers a competitive benefits package that includes the Public Employees' Retirement Account (PERA), a 401K or 457 retirement plan, health and dental insurance options, 10 holidays, and accrual of paid sick and vacation time.

The Department is a tobacco-free campus.

Enrollment

In August 2011 there were 597,705 clients enrolled in Medicaid and 65,991 clients enrolled in CHP+. Monthly numbers for enrollment and expenditures can be found on the Department's Budget Web page,